

THE MCGILL DAILY

Volume 81, Number 24

Scooped by the letters column since 1911.

Wednesday, October 16, 1991

Glossy rag threatens student press

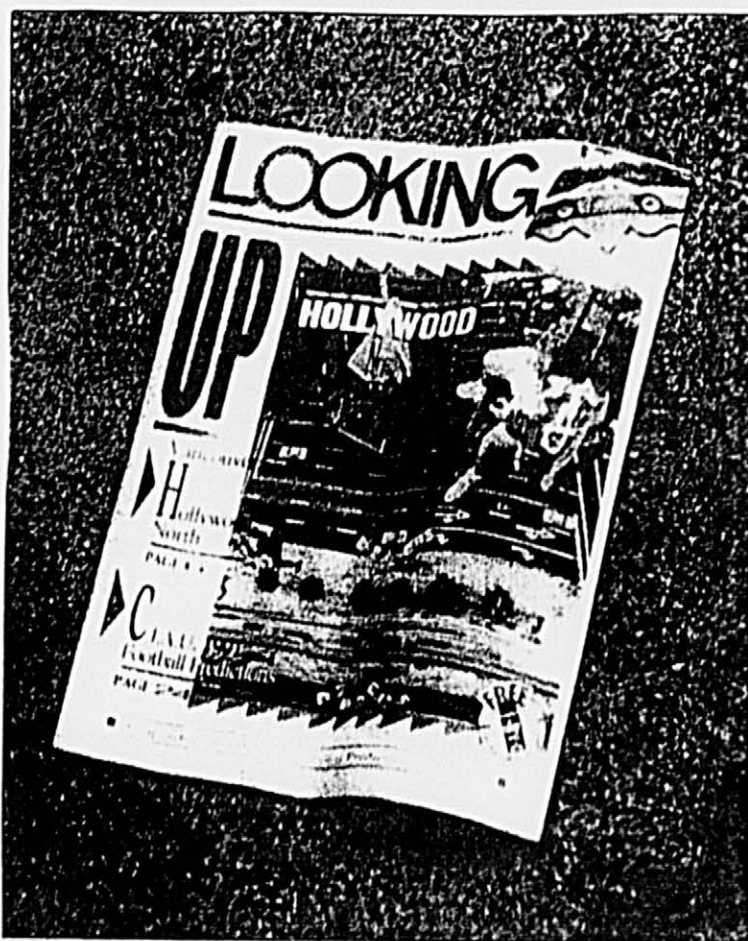
by Fiona McCaw

A privately owned advertising magazine distributed at McGill has rallied together campus newspapers at universities across the country.

Looking Up, published by Montréal-based Glenmont publications, has been on campuses in Québec and Ontario since September 1990. This year, it is expanding to campuses in Western and Atlantic Canada.

"The magazine is already depleting the advertising revenues of student papers," said John Montesano, president of the Canadian University Press (CUP) an association of Canadian student newspapers.

According to Campus Plus, a student-owned agency which solicits advertising for student papers, several companies have already withdrawn their advertising from student papers, preferring to advertise in *Looking Up*. These companies include General Motors, Carter Products, Upjohn laboratories, and Casio calculators. Last year these companies provided Campus



Magazine's fortunes looking down...

plus newspapers with over \$200 000.

"The bottom line to us is that glossy magazines that are not run by students take money out of the student community," said Montesano.

"These magazines will fundamentally change the information flow on campus, from being controlled by students to being controlled by private corporations."

Looking Up publisher Monte Perlman said CUP's fears are unfounded. In a letter to several student newspapers, Perlman said "the magazine would be funded by a group of companies new to the market [that] are not likely to be otherwise involved in the [student press] market."

Perlman said *Looking Up* is no threat to the student press. Instead, he said it is "Committed to working with campus publications and developing a national voice which will strengthen the community and give students a medium in which ideas and issues can be discussed."

To illustrate Glenmont's commitment to student welfare, Perl-

man cited the magazine's plans for awards and scholarships for students. He said Glenmont has proposed a summer internship program and a section in *Looking Up* consisting of articles submitted by student writers and papers.

Krishna Rau, editor of the *Varsity*, a newspaper at the University of Toronto, said Glenmont's assertions of goodwill are "total bullshit."

"They are threatening student papers," said Rau. "They are pushing papers into an economic corner. It's bad for student's freedom of expression and bad for students in general."

Montesano said that non-profit student papers were at a disadvantage when competing with profit oriented papers such as *Looking Up*.

"Non-profit papers have to worry about stability and have a high turnover rate of staff. Profit papers can hire and fire whoever they want," said Montesano.

Student newspapers across the country have taken action against *Looking Up*. Some have lobbied

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McGill staff association undemocratic, members charge

by Karen Taylor

Executive members of McGill's main association for employees have violated their own constitution to conceal financial mismanagement, say former members of the association.

Fifteen hundred McGill staff have been kept in the dark for almost a year about a legal dispute involving their staff association. The year-long dispute between the staff association and McGill university was settled out of court last winter.

The settlement could have cost the McGill University Non-Academic Staff Association (MUNASA) over \$100 000, say former MUNASA members.

"In view of the excessive expenditure, I am not surprised at the elaborate attempt to obscure these facts through legal gerrymandering," said committee member Charles Dolan.

Dolan said that executive members of MUNASA may have been so embarrassed about the expenditures they violated the MUNASA constitution by pushing through major administrative changes without any scrutiny from the membership. He said executives may have feared the scrutiny would also reveal the excessive spending.

MUNASA's dispute with McGill hinged around the university's reluctance to recognize the 18-year-old staff association as the legal re-

presentative of McGill staff.

In order to improve its position in the dispute with McGill, the executive of MUNASA chose to incorporate the association as M.U.N.A.S.A. Inc. last January.

But, Dolan said, MUNASA executives did not notify the membership until six months later. He also charged the incorporation remains unratified by the association's membership to this day.

"There was a complete disregard of the democratic process and MUNASA's constitution," said Dolan. "The membership must approve all important constitutional changes."

Article Seven of the MUNASA constitution says constitutional amendments must be ratified by a two-thirds majority vote of the total membership in a referendum. Members must be notified at least 30 days before the vote for the results to be valid.

Dolan said executives violated Article Seven because only 250 out of MUNASA's 1500 members actually voted. The vote was held last June, with only a week's notification. Members were not even voting on the incorporation itself — which actually happened without members' approval in January; they were merely asked to agree to hand over their membership dues to the six-month-old M.U.N.A.S.A. Inc.

Said Dolan, "The executive talked about incorporation in Janua-

ry, but they kept what they were actually doing very much under the hat."

But MUNASA president Trevor Garland rejected the allegations of impropriety.

Garland said the MUNASA executive told the membership of the plan to incorporate in January. "If the members objected, don't you think they would have objected then," he asked.

Garland said Article Seven of the constitution did not apply to the incorporation anyway, because it was "not a fundamental change." As a result, he claimed, incorporation did not require ratification from MUNASA members.

But Anne Comeau, another MUNASA dissident, said incorporation was a change big enough to be debated by the membership.

"It is not that incorporation is necessarily bad, but it should have had a mandate and should be ratified. It's a major change because the whole context and form of the organization has changed."

Comeau said that debate never occurred. "My recollection is that incorporation was briefly discussed as an alternative," she said.

Dolan said that because the membership had not ratified the incorporation, the executive has no legal right to use MUNASA membership dues.

Comeau agreed. "It costs a lot of money to incorporate. The execu-

tives assumed the right to use membership dues to pay for incorporation."

Garland, for his part, denied any improper appropriation of assets. M.U.N.A.S.A. Inc. did not start spending any money until June, he said, when members voted to transfer their dues.

But Garland did acknowledge that "several thousand dollars" of MUNASA funds financed the incorporation process.

A McGill law professor who has followed the MUNASA incorporation said Dolan's committee has a case.

The professor, who wished to remain unnamed, told the *Daily* that the incorporation of MUNASA is highly problematic.

He explained that if the association's executives argue that the new M.U.N.A.S.A. Inc. can legally acquire the property of the old MUNASA, then the association's executives must comply with the MUNASA constitution.

On the other hand, if M.U.N.A.S.A. Inc. is an entirely new body, not bound by the old constitution, it cannot as a matter of right acquire the rights and property of MUNASA, he said.

The lawyer of M.U.N.A.S.A. Inc. could not be reached for comment.

MUNASA's executives were under pressure to incorporate the association last winter because of a legal dispute with McGill, in which

the university claimed it didn't have to recognize MUNASA because as a non-incorporated association it did not legally exist.

McGill's claim allowed the administration to refuse to negotiate job grievances filed against the university by two technicians two years ago on behalf of 80 other McGill employees.

MUNASA executives wanted to incorporate so the university couldn't get out of dealing with the grievances.

But, the law professor warned, McGill now has another legal loophole because of the irregularities surrounding the incorporation.

"Whether it has been properly incorporated could become important, because the university has no obligation to deal with a body that isn't properly constituted."

Inside

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EVENTS

Economics and Constitutional Change lecture with Prof. Sid Ingerman. Hosted by NDP McGill today at 16:00 Union B9/10.

McGill Poster Parents general meeting and potluck dinner today at 18:30 Union 414.

Toward a Canada/Quebec Union roundtablesponsored by the Karl Polanyi Institute of Political Science and The School of Community and Public Affairs today 18:00-20:00 at Concordia University School of Community and Public Affairs, 2149 Mackay St. basement lounge.

Book Lovers Forum II Prof. Robert Adams will review *Baumgartners Bombay* by Anita Desai. Today at 10:00 at the Temple Emanu-El-Beth-Shalom 4100 Sherbrooke St. W. \$5.35.

MIDSA presents World Food Day. Peace meal (vegetarian), film and discussion to follow. Today at 18:00 at the Newman Centre 3484 Peel. \$3.00 min.

First annual Teachers' Career Day held by the Education Undergraduate Society. Today in the Union Ballroom 9:00-17:00.

International Socialists meeting on "Quebec and the Constitutional Crisis." Today Union 107/108 at 19:30.

Magazine sexist and homophobic, students say

by Robin LeBaron

A management students' paper has sparked campus-wide condemnation for its homophobic and sexist content.

"This magazine is a blatant case of hate literature," said graduate student Daron Westman, who raised the issue at Student Council last Thursday. "This sort of writing is exceptionally dangerous."

One section of the *Commerce Communiqué* proposed forming a "heterosexual" club to combat a "bombardment" of "gay news and literature." It called for "heterosexuals" to "stand up" and "not be ashamed of who you are."

"On the eve of national coming out day they have the gall to print this," said Westman. "It's gay people who are constantly bombarded by heterosexual propaganda."

"It makes a mockery of everything gays and lesbians have been trying to do."

Another section of the paper suggested liver was better than a woman in bed because it didn't mind being tied up and whipped. Also, an "advice column" recommended kicking a woman in the teeth for refusing a marriage proposal.

"This magazine portrays women as easily victimized; as legitimate

objects of violence and sexuality," said Kelly Gallagher-Mackay, coordinator of the McGill Walk-Safe Network. "This sort of legitimization is what keeps women from reporting date rape."

"The people who put that magazine together can't possibly be ignorant of the controversy surrounding similar messages at Queen's," said Gallagher-Mackay.

Two years ago, signs reading "No means kick her in the teeth" caused sit-ins and angry protests across Queen's university campus.

Other students responded with similar outrage. "It's the most disgusting thing I've read at McGill," said Alex Johnston, students' Society VP Internal. "I'm shocked that there might be a number of students in management who might want to read it."

Communiqué editors, Yalmaz Siddiqui and Brad McDonald, said the content of the magazine was supposed to be a joke.

"In management, it's known that the material is to be taken with a grain of salt and not at face value," said the two editors in a joint statement to the *Daily*.

"However, we now realize that some of the comments could be offensive to some segments of the student body," they said.

Siddiqui denied any knowledge

of the incidents at Queen's two years ago. "I don't think the article was related," he said. "It was an article with ten sections. We chose the calmest of the ten."

The editors have sent letters to the *Daily* and the *Tribune*. They said they will send "explanations" to GALOM and the Woman's

Union. But these explanations are not apologies, the two editors said.

"Making apologies after the fact just doesn't cut it," said Gallagher-Mackay. "These people had time to think about what they were putting in the magazine."

The *Communiqué* editors said circulation of the magazine would be immediately discontinued.

Looking up...

continued from page 1

their student councils, some have written letters, and some have taken matters into their own hands, removing the magazines themselves.

Kieth Desh, copy co-ordinator of Simon Fraser University's the *Peak*, said "we went out, we found them, and we killed them."

Student associations have banned the magazine from campus at York, Calgary, Concordia, Carleton, Dalhousie and St. Mary's University in Halifax. Other universities have agreements keeping off-campus publications off campus grounds.

On many campuses *Looking Up* is distributed through Travel Cuts, which is owned by the Canadian Federation of Students. But the

executive of the federation is opposed to the distribution of the magazine, and is discussing the possibility of terminating Travel Cuts' contract with Glenmont.

Montesano said *Looking Up* is part of a larger trend.

"It's all part of the same scam," said Montesano. "More and more private companies are taking over services which used to be run by students for students. And the universities would rather make money off the companies than protect student-run services."

Matthew Lawrence, of the University of Winnipeg *Uniter*, agreed.

"There is a whole wave of non-student enterprises moving onto the campus," said Lawrence. "We seem to be moving to privatize universities in every sense of the word."

McGill is on our list.

This week's Maclean's features a Special Report on Canada's universities — including an authoritative ranking of all universities, based on an exhaustive analysis by Canada's Weekly Newsmagazine.

Where does McGill rank on Maclean's list?

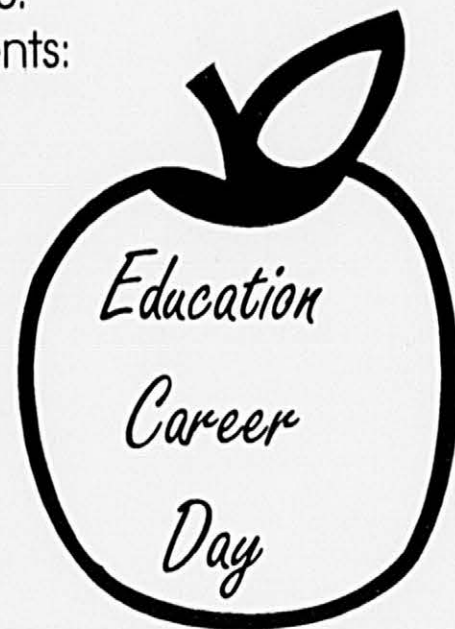
Find out **today**. Our rating of the all-stars and the also-rans, plus insightful reporting on the state of post-secondary education in Canada, appears in the October 21 issue — on a newsstand near you now!

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Report on universities calls for massive tuition fee hikes

by Martin Chester
and Karen Hill

OTTAWA (CUP) — Stuart Smith, newly-anointed guardian of the government's interests, wants to raise Canadian university tuition fees.

Smith, the head of the Commission of Inquiry on Canadian University Education, advocated massive tuition fee hikes in a report released last week. Officials of the Canadian Federation of Students say the hikes Smith advocates could raise some students' fees as much as 250 per cent.

Smith wants students to pay 25 per cent of the cost of education, rather than the current 17 per cent their tuition fees constitute.

Paying 25 per cent of the cost of education would seriously affect university accessibility for students across Canada. In Québec, where only 10 per cent of the cost of education comes from tuition fees, students would be particularly hard hit.

While Smith calls upon students to pay higher fees, his report excuses the federal government's record on university funding by pointing to the current economic climate.

Smith said that despite federal and provincial funding cuts, the quality of university graduates hasn't noticeably declined.

CFS chair Kelly Lamrock said the report is playing directly into the hands of the federal government. "This is exactly the kind of thing the government is looking for," he said. By saying universities are not facing a crisis in funding, the government can continue to ignore the pleas of administrators, faculty, staff and students, Lamrock said.

Smith also suggested substantial changes to the loans and bursaries system.

He recommended that student loans repayments be based on a graduate's income level, rather than being set at a fixed rate. This reform would ensure that students from "less affluent" backgrounds would

no longer be deterred from going to university, he said.

That isn't so, according to CFS deputy-chair Allison Lewis.

"It doesn't replace the fact that students are going to look at tuition fees and say that 'no, I'm not going to go,'" she said. CFS wants the loan system abolished and replaced by a system of grants. It also calls for a reform of the tax system.

Smith also recommended the government gradually increase its contributions to universities.

According to the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS), the loss in funding from cuts to federal transfer payments earmarked for education will be \$9 billion by 1995.

Smith heard 200 presentations and received 250 reports during hearings from October to December last year. He was commissioned by the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada to report on how well universities were carrying out their educational mandate.

Donors who contributed a total of \$220 000 to the commission included Alcan, Bell, IBM, Imperial

Oil, Inco, Northern Telecom, Royal Bank, and Xerox.



amendment was ruled out of order because he did not attend the meeting.

Most professors during the debate on the motion worried that the criticisms by Fenichel and Rowley were damaging to the department.

"Their comments just revived old quarrels and old troubles," said professor Thomas Velk, who supported the motion.

Velk also worried that "angry but misinformed students" would leave the department after reading the *Daily* article, and that students were getting caught in the middle of "old antagonisms" between professors.

But Velk was greeted with a curt reply from professor Sid Ingerman, who later voted against the motion.

Velk's remarks showed "a profound disrespect for the intelligence of students," Ingerman said. "An article in the *Daily* is just a ripple in the ocean. If we actually improve teaching, students will know it."

Professor Lee Sonderstrom, who also opposed the motion, agreed

Student rep votes with profs to rebuke Economics critics

by Alex Roslin

Economics students are startled after their representative supported a motion to rebuke two professors for criticizing the department's lax attitude toward teaching.

Economics Student Association president Patti Buckley voted with a clear majority of the department's professors to rebuke the two professors at a departmental meeting Friday.

Professors Allen Fenichel and Robin Rowley had complained in an article in the *Daily* that the department encourages professors to spend more energy on publishing academic tracts than on teaching undergraduates. They also said the department fosters a contemptuous attitude towards undergraduate students.

"I'm speechless," said third-year Economics student Helga Tawil, in reference to Buckley's support for the motion.

"The student rep has totally disregarded what she's there for."

Tawil said professors Fenichel and Rowley "are doing the job of representing students better than she is."

Students were also numbed by a sexist incident which occurred as professors debated whether to rebuke Fenichel and Rowley. The mostly male meeting twice burst into laughter while a female professor criticized the department for being a "patriarchal male reserve."

"I am quite serious," professor Victoria Zinde-Walsh was forced to insist, after criticizing the dueling professors for exhibiting "the extremes of male behaviour."

Zinde-Walsh placed much of the blame at the feet of Economics chair John McCallum, because he "didn't

strongly condemn" the sexist behaviour.

Another third-year Economics student, who wished to remain unnamed, said he was "really mad" about the sexist incident and Buckley's vote.

"In what sense is Buckley a student representative," he asked, saying the ESA president had "forfeited" her mandate to represent Economics students.

"There is no contact between the student 'leadership' and the students. All they do is organize a wine-and-cheese, and add 'ESA' to their resumé."

Buckley said she voted to rebuke Fenichel and Rowley because their criticisms were not made in a "constructive" way.

"I don't think what they did was right. It's not good to just bad-mouth other professors."

Buckley also disagreed that the Economics department ignores students.

"From what I've seen this year, the professors have spent a lot of time improving the undergraduate program."

Fenichel and Rowley distributed a memo to other professors before the meeting, asking that their statement be read into the minutes.

"We feel no need to 'defend' our right to free speech," they said in the statement, challenging other professors to a public debate on the state of the Economics department.

Neither professor attended the meeting, and the statement was not read into the meeting minutes.

Also undiscussed during the meeting was economics professor Tom Naylor's amendment to the motion. Naylor asked that he be included on the list of professors rebuked by the department. His

that the issue shouldn't be the article, but teaching in the Economics department.

Sonderstrom referred to the motion as "the kind of thing a bunch of rascals would pass."

The motion to rebuke Fenichel and Rowley passed at Friday's meeting 17 to 3, and was sponsored by chair McCallum and professor John Kurien.

The ESA has organized a public forum to discuss problems in the department today at 17h30 in the Economics lounge (Leacock 429).

THIS IS ALL
VERY WELL —
BUT HOW ARE
GOING TO MAKE
ANY MONEY??



NEWS BRIEF

CKUT cash crisis

An obscure municipal by-law will prohibit members of McGill's radio station from holding a fund-raising campaign next spring.

"We're a community-based radio station," said CKUT fundraising organizer Janice Fike. "By delaying our funding the city is cutting the voice of many community groups."

For the last few years, CKUT has held its annual fundraising drive in March. But CKUT ran into a wall when members wanted to move the date forward to November. A municipal by-law prohibiting non-profit organizations from fundraising more than once during a calendar year prevented the station from obtaining a permit.

"Most campus radios have funding drives in the fall," said Fike. "It makes sense. Students are leaving in the spring and its not fair to take their pledges if they aren't coming back."

March is also near the end of CKUT's financial year. "We still get pledges coming in in May, when our fiscal year ends," said Fike. "It complicates our finances."

CKUT members unsuccessfully attempted to get an exemption from the by-law. "City council could have made an amendment for us, but they didn't bother," said Fike.

Radio station members were told a November fund-raising efforts would conflict with other groups' schedules. According to Fike, the charity organization Centraide has the exclusive right to fundraise in Montréal from October to mid-November.

CKUT plans to raise \$50 000 this year during their fundraising drive.

—by Robin LeBaron

THE MCGILL DAILY

EDITORIAL

Who's your campus voice?

AN OPEN LETTER TO THE STUDENTS OF MCGILL:

Officials of the Students' Society have entered into an agreement to give distribution at McGill to *Looking Up*, a free, student and career-oriented glossy magazine.

We, the members of the *McGill Tribune* and the *McGill Daily* are opposed to the distribution of *Looking Up* and publications like it on McGill's campus. We object for the following reasons:

- *Looking Up* is a corporate, profit-oriented, non-student-run publication. This magazine is taking away advertising dollars from our non-profit, volunteer student press.

- *Looking Up* claims to be 'Canada's Campus Voice'; it is not. The magazine may run student articles, but it is neither student-run nor student-controlled. The magazine is misrepresenting itself to both its readers and its advertisers.

- *Looking Up* is threatening our financial future. If we lose money, we lose the papers. Democratic organizations like ours provide a forum for discussion and debate within a local community of students. *Looking Up* will deprive the campus of this irreplaceable forum.

Looking Up is selling itself as a student publication, while using sales techniques which are unavailable to the real student press. If *Looking Up* wants to take advantage of the student market, why doesn't it start where other commercial magazines do — at the newsstand?

Banning free distribution of this magazine on campus is not censorship. Seven student governments across Canada have already banned *Looking Up* from their campuses, recognizing the dangers which the magazine poses to their student press. Exactly how did this magazine end up on our campus?

The staff of the *McGill Tribune*

The staff of the *McGill Daily*



GRAPHIC REPRINTED FROM THE CHARLATAN

LETTERS

political sphere, in a critical and essential way.

In short, education should *not* be seen as a mere 'consumable.' (Moreover, those who wish to see it as a 'right' are only halfway there.)

Education is a *duty* — a duty of citizenship. A citizen is educated not only for personal benefit, but for the good of society as well. If we, as students, are willing to comply with our part of the obligation (i.e. by educating ourselves), then shouldn't our society comply with its part of the obligation? That is, by providing us with every possible means to accomplish this duty of citizenship?

George Sopol
B.C.L.I

Communiqué editors sorry

To the Daily:

After publishing the October issue of the *Commerce Communiqué*, we were made aware that the magazine was found to be extremely offensive to a number of McGill societies. The complaints were that the issue was not only in poor taste, but was liable to prejudice readers against particular groups of people, namely homosexuals and women.

Whilst it was never our intention to cause offense or to prejudice readers in any way, we do accept that the printing of some articles was irresponsible. We therefore have undertaken to discontinue circulation of the issue in question, and to more efficiently scrutinize future editions of the magazine. The Management Undergraduate Society has always given full editorial licence to writers of the *Commerce Communiqué* and regrets that some of the material in the issue was deemed to be unacceptable.

We would like to offer our genuine and sincere apologies to anyone who has been offended.

Brad McDonald
Yalmaz Siddiqui
Editors of the *Commerce Communiqué*

LETTERS

Terrorist quote out of context

To the Daily:

As a student involved on various University bodies, including the Board of Governors, I took great exception to the remark attributed to Economics Professor Galbraith at a recent Departmental meeting, published in the *McGill Daily*. However, I did the responsible thing and contacted the writer of the article, Professor Galbraith, and some others who were present at that meeting.

After my discussions, I have concluded that Professor Galbraith's statement was very clearly taken out of context. Unfortunately, the author of that article was not present at the meeting and did not take the time to carefully verify the accuracy of the alleged comment. Considering the current situation in the Economics Department and the fact that Professor Galbraith is under consideration for Department Chair, the statement as reported was very unfair. Such careless journalism can be very damaging for the parties involved and does the McGill Community a great disservice.

I very strongly hope that the *McGill Daily* will be more careful in the future.

Don Sutherland
M.A.2

Ed. note: Sutherland's letter was submitted before we ran an ed. note on Oct. 9 clarifying Galbraith's statements. For the record, Galbraith himself says he made an analogy between allowing

student representation on a university committee and a government giving into a terrorist group. Later during the meeting, he insisted that the analogy was not supposed to apply to students. You figure it out.

Unethical establishment

To the Daily:

Dear Mr. Schuller:

Having studied at McGill may appear good on a resume, but it has not yet given me a top position in a top company with a top salary. If it had, I'd not be planning to attend U de M to learn a trade and hoping to earn some money in a couple years.

The side effect of going back to school is seeing how much my former school abuses its prerogative to testify I've really been a student and I've really graduated. One cannot seriously think that making three copies of my transcripts and sending it to one address is a service worth anywhere close to \$18. But it is what I will need to pay or die, and McGill won't give a damn.

It's simply outrageous! The prices are twice what they were a few weeks ago (and they were already relatively high), simply because some obscure committee agreed to let the students and graduates bear the burden of McGill's deficit!

I've paid my dues while attending your institution, with 500 students in an auditorium and professors running away from the mob of undergraduate

students. That was not enough: I request a small service and McGill is taking advantage of it. A captive market, one learns in institutions such as yours. Concordia is certainly not more endowed than McGill, but instead of \$18, it will charge me \$2 to send these three copies to the same address. Simon Fraser University charges on \$6, which is still a reasonable amount of money.

Does McGill have any ethical values?

Before I get an answer, I'll still need these transcripts, regardless of the rip off. The obscure, cold, rational committee should perhaps consider the devastating effects such arbitrary decisions it makes have on a student's budget. Please pass the work to the anonymous committee and tell its anonymous chairman: too much is too much!

Nicole F. Bernier
BA '88

Education is your duty

To the Daily:

In "Student fed'n says: Fee hikes

acceptable" (*Daily* October 7th), SSMU VP External Karla Macdonald is quoted as saying: "We [as students] are consumers of a product, and we have an obligation to pay for our education."

This view has been forwarded very often lately, in varying guises. In my opinion, this is a terribly mistaken way to portray an education.

As members of a society, we should not look upon education as a mere 'consumable.' We educate ourselves in order to better our standing in society. The underlying premise is that society recognizes the value of an education, and rewards it accordingly. It is thus recognized that, in virtue of having a higher education, we are better able to contribute to society. In other words: We make better citizens by educating ourselves.

A higher education confers the tools, not only to serve a particular function in the marketplace, but also (and more importantly), to enable us to participate in the affairs of society itself. A higher education enables us to enter the

Opinion by Hugos De Burgos, a U3 Anthropology student:

Since the massive arrival of the Europeans to what is now called Canada, the Natives of this country were gradually subjugated and despoiled of their lands and culture. Consequently, they have been historically forced to occupy the lowest of the statuses within the social and economic stratification of the newly imposed society. The social inequalities between Europeans and Natives were, from the very beginning, enhanced and fomented by notions and complexes of superiority clearly derived from Social Darwinism.

Nowadays, this culturally and socio-economically detrimental situation persists amongst the natives in Canada, and has become an endemic reality. The injurious consequences of the process of colonization are still alive.

The implementation of "well-intentioned" government policies rather than helping this situation have only worsened it. However, in order to improve this historically produced situation the Canadian natives have proposed the notion of self-government.

With colonization, the Natives' right to exercise sovereignty

was unjustly abrogated and ignored. As well, their political institutions were systematically dismantled. Presently, the Canadian Natives are still struggling for their sovereignty. They believe that sovereignty exists in and of itself. They see it as a gift from the Creator, which has never been surrendered.

The Natives' notion of self-government is neither a recent idea, nor just a political flint, or merely greed for power. Rather, it is their own legitimate, historical and inherent right to be the architects of their own destiny.

For the Natives, self-government means the people's right to determine their political future and to freely pursue their cultural and economic development, by being able to control areas such as membership, land, water, forestry, minerals, health, cultural development and law enforcement. Self-government, according to the Canadian Natives, does not mean separation.

Perhaps, self-government is the most feasible avenue to improve the long-existing Native problem created by the state of dependency, or internal colonization, to which Natives have been historically subjugated. Penner already said it in his famous report: "Ending dependency would stimulate self-confidence and social regeneration."

HYDE PARK

Thanks to Cristobal Colon

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contributors
Karen Taylor, Adam Jones,
Kristen Hutchison, Fiona
McCaw, Daniel Koffler, Ita
Kendall, Michael Rottmayer,
Alex Littlerose, Brian Boyer,
Janine Luce

Editorial Offices: 3480 McTavish, room B-03 Montréal, Québec H3A 1X9 telephone (514) 398-6784
Business and Advertising Office: 3480 McTavish, room B-17 Montréal, Québec H3A 1X9

co-ordinating editor: Alex Roslin
co-ordinating news editor: —
news editors: Peter Clibbon, Robin Le Baron
layout and design co-ordinators: —
daily français: —
photo editor: Katerina Cizek
culture editor: Doug McDonald
science editor: —

Daily fax: (514) 398-8318

business manager: Marian Schrier, JoAnne Pickel
telephoning (514) 398-6790
advertising managers: Boris Shedov, Olga Kontozissi
telephoning (514) 398-6791
advertising layout and design: Rob Costain

Beyond the barricades

The Sandinista press searches for a new role

by Adam Jones

In Nicaragua, journalists are for the most part underpaid and undertrained. But they can also become national icons. Take Pedro Joaquín Chamorro, who turned up on a Nicaraguan postage stamp earlier this year.

The assassination of this *La Prensa* editor in 1978 sparked popular outrage that contributed to the overthrow of the Somoza dictatorship a year later. Early in 1990, after a decade of Sandinista revolutionary rule, Chamorro's wife Violeta — claiming her husband's inspiration from beyond the grave — was elected President of Nicaragua.

Today, though, it's the publication edited by Pedro Joaquín's 35-year-old son, Carlos Fernando — a B.A. Honours from McGill — which is making the news in Nicaragua.

On January 30 of this year, *Barricada*, the "official organ of the Sandinista Front" from the first days of the revolution era, unveiled a new and in some ways radically revamped version of itself. Most striking was the change in the paper's slogan, which now reads, "In the National Interest."

"Like an earthquake..."

The reasons for the changes at *Barricada* are a complex combination of the practical, the personal, and the political. In all respects, however, the watershed event was the stunning electoral upset which deposed the Sandinistas last year.

The election "was like an earthquake for the entire nation," remembered *Barricada* staffwriter Guillermo Cortés.

"Everything came apart. All your work plans, your future, your project. The paper's character, as a semi-official government organ, no longer made sense."

The election result had an acutely personal dimension for Carlos Fernando Chamorro, *Barricada*'s director, who studied Economics at McGill from 1974 to 1977. It meant his mother — a conservative — would be President of the Republic. (Like many Nicaraguan families, the Chamorros are divided along political lines.)

In a broader sense, the election result had sweeping implications for the newspaper Chamorro oversees. The Sandinista defeat allowed *Barricada* to accelerate plans for change which had been in the works since 1987, when the long-running war against U.S.-sponsored *Contras* began to wind down.

After years of civil strife and extreme political polarization, the newspaper — and Sandinista leaders — saw a need to decrease the mutual antipathies, fuelled by angry rhetoric, which were poisoning social and political discourse in Nicaragua.

Today, *Barricada* is working to encourage "a process of discussion and communication" in Nicaraguan society, according to *Barricada* staff member Sofia Montenegro. The flamboyant and outspoken Montenegro has been with *Barricada* on and off since 1979. She now edits *Gente*, the paper's liveliest and most popular weekly supplement.

"What we're trying to do is show people how to be more tolerant," Montenegro said. "The idea is that the struggle today is not something you have to carry out with guns and bullets. Words also have their own weight and strength."

"We haven't forgotten the struggle, but we're trying to be less emotional about it."

Barricada's new line blends with the Sandinista leadership's approach to opposition politics. The Sandinistas have sought to keep a critical distance from government policies. But in return for continued control over the army and security forces (something which no popular movement in Central America would casually surrender), they have supported the Chamorro regime's applications for foreign aid, helped in negotiations between the



Róger Sánchez, a *Barricada* caricaturist during the Sandinista years in power, penned this drawing showing the quandary of the party journalist. A state functionary spoon-feeds press-conference material to an eager reporter: "Open your mouth and close your eyes..." (From *Barricada*, 1 March 1983).

government and pro-Sandinista unions, and made it clear they will seek a return to power by peaceful, electoral means only.

A Sandinista media institution which keeps its cool, stressing "balance" and "the national interest," fits in well with this strategy. But it's also clear that the new environment in which *Barricada* operates is allowing the paper for the first time to advance its own agenda, founded on basic principles of journalistic professionalism.

"No chance to fool around..."

According to numerous staff members, during the Sandinista years, *Barricada*'s editorials were constrained by the need to disseminate the official line. "You were so intimidated by the possible effect your article could have on the revolution that you always exercised immense self-restraint," said Sofia Montenegro. "There wasn't much

chance to fool around."

Nonetheless, *Barricada* managed to preserve something of the journalist's traditional approach and value-system. "Our criteria as journalists was that you couldn't subordinate the journalistic importance [of a story], or the public interest, to political considerations all the time," said Carlos Fernando Chamorro.

An obvious model for *Barricada* was *Granma*, the official organ of the Cuban Communist Party. In this case, though, it was a model of what should be avoided as far as possible.

Sofia Montenegro visited the *Granma* offices in the mid-1980s and found herself "horrified and laughing."

"If they wrote an editorial, they had to take it over to the Central Committee headquarters," Montenegro said. "There would be some party big-shot who'd check what you wrote and give the O.K."

Montenegro herself claimed to

have written "hundreds" of editorials for *Barricada* during the Sandinista years, submitting them only to newspaper director Carlos Fernando Chamorro for approval.

The movement and Madonna

A crucial consideration in *Barricada*'s new, post-election orientation is the financial straits in which the paper finds itself. When the Chamorro government took power last April, it cancelled *Barricada*'s printing contract with the Ministry of Education to print state textbooks.

The contract was worth some \$500 000 annually. Another important source of funding, state-sector advertising, all but disappeared.

The broader economic crisis has had a powerful impact on all three of Managua's daily papers. With most Nicaraguans struggling to put a bare quantity of rice and beans on the table, potential readership for any publication is strictly limited. A single copy of *Barricada*, for example, can cost as much as 20 percent of a worker's daily salary.

The paper has developed a variety of free-market strategies to secure more readers and advertising revenue. To compete with the splashy and sensationalistic left-wing daily *El Nuevo Diario*, *Barricada* is bolstering its entertainment coverage, adding some well-researched human-interest material, and dabbling in *periodismo amarillo* — "yellow journalism."

There are more stories on crime, more women in bathing suits, and gossip about Madonna's bisexual love-life. There is also (for the first time) a horoscope, which recently switched from monthly to weekly appearances.

Does *Barricada* risk losing its identity in a rush to cater to the lowest common denominator? Sergio de Castro, a member of the *Barricada* editorial council, emphatically rejected the notion.

"Look. People — revolutionary people — like to fuck, like to drink, like to go to the beach. Why not? It's crazy to think that if you're a revolutionary or a progressive, you're going to behave like a monk in a monastery."

Nicaraguans, de Castro said, "are tired of war. They've been saturated with politics. We have to reflect the other aspects of daily life."



BARRICADA

Por los intereses nacionales

B.C. Greens field First Nations candidate

VANCOUVER (CUP) —

After a concerted effort British Columbia's Green party has drafted just one First Nations candidate to run in the provincial election.

Clarence Absasin, former head of the Treaty Eight band council, will run in the Peace River North constituency. Absasin may be the only First Nations person running in the election, though not all candidates have been chosen yet.

Elizabeth Smith, chair of the Green party's First Nations issues group, pushed the party to recruit First Nations candidates. She said she contacted between 20 and 30 possible candidates, but only Absasin decided to run.

"It wasn't anything against the Green party. They were just too busy with the constitution and that kind of thing," Smith said.

Smith said the Green party's support for regional self-government and First Nations self-determination makes the party attractive to First Nations people.

Absasin said he chose the party for two reasons.

"First of all the Green party asked and none of the others did," he said.

"The other is that the environment must be saved for the future of our children. We have to protect it for all children, not just native children."

He said ideas like selective logging — much discussed in B.C. but rarely used — would help slow the destruction of the environment without costing jobs.

Absasin said First Nations people may be able to find a home in the Green party because they share interests.

"This is the first time they have asked native people to be involved, and that is positive," he said. "Our people have been talking about these things for thousands of years. The Green party has come about at the right time for native people."

Smith said she will continue to seek involvement by First Nations people in the party after the election.

"I think it was a matter of them not knowing about the party," she said. "That would fall on our shoulders. We haven't done a great job of explaining ourselves to the public."

Smith said Absasin has the best chance of getting elected of all the Green party's candidates. "I think Clarence's chances are very good. He is well liked and well respected."

Absasin is more guarded in his outlook. "I'm hoping for positiveness. It's the first time and people don't know me that well."



Engineers neglect architects in referendum

by Michael Rottmayer

The engineering students' association was denied legal accreditation from the provincial government even though most students supported accreditation in a referendum last year.

The request for accreditation was rejected over the summer because the vote omitted students from architecture.

"An accredited faculty association must include all schools, departments and associations within a faculty," said Engineering Undergraduate Society (EUS) president Gino Brancatelli.

Although architecture students are within the faculty of engineering, they have their own student association independent of the EUS, he said.

The 1983 Accreditation Act was designed by the provincial government to grant student associations clear legal rights and obligations. Over a dozen Québec student associations have obtained the status, including McGill's association for continuing education students.

If accredited, the university would be required to collect student fees and remit them to the EUS within 30 days. The EUS would also be guaranteed representation on university administrative bodies, an office and telephones.

But many have criticized the Act for being vague and irrelevant to most student associations.

"Accreditation has been rarely used in Québec due to the fact that it doesn't represent the complex reality on university campuses," said a Post-Graduate Students'

Society document recommending amendments to the Act.

But Brancatelli said accreditation status would be worthwhile for the EUS because it would give the association some financial security.

"With accreditation, our fees would not have to be approved by Senate," he said.

"Accreditation status would act as a safeguard for the EUS against the university, although our relationship with McGill is pretty good in our present arrangement."

Because the EUS was not accredited this summer, a "letter of agreement" will define its relationship with the university.

But Brancatelli said negotiations on the letter have bogged down on several points. The university wants the dean of Students to have exclusive power over deciding whether the agreement is in default.

Brancatelli said another referendum on accreditation might be needed to overcome the "all-department" technicality — although a new relationship with architecture students would be needed also.

"Either a large umbrella association between engineering and architecture students would be required, or some form of alliance of all the departments in the faculty," he said.

Architecture representative to student council David Gruber said he would favor EUS accreditation.

Women lacking in academic posts

ST. JOHN'S (CUP) —

Women remain sadly underrepresented in the science and engineering faculties at Memorial university, despite some attempts to improve the gender balance.

Thirty women and 181 men were admitted into engineering this fall.

According to engineering dean Ross Peters, the low number of women in engineering is partly a result of socialization. He said women who get average grades seemed less inclined to apply to the faculty than men.

"I think women seem to think they can't do engineering, but men don't seem to think that about themselves," he said.

Ellen Balka, a Memorial women's studies professor, also said socialization is a factor.

Many female children are not pushed into science-related areas in grade school, and have trouble learning the same ideas later, she said.

She said women are discouraged by both classmates and teachers.

"I know a lot of women who have started their degrees, but didn't continue because they were treated badly," she said.

But Balka also emphasized the active discrimination women face in universities.

"I used to teach computer science at a different university and I heard awful stories of sexism among students. There's sexism everywhere," she said.

Peters, on the other hand, said sexism is not a problem among the students and faculty in his department.

"If I go back 10 years since I've been dean, I've only had one complaint about sexism and that was about five years ago," he said.

"It's not prevalent in any obvious way — not that I can see."

The faculty has been working with the campus organization Women in Science and Engineering to promote engineering to women, he added.

The ratio of female to male professors in the whole university is staggering. A 1990 study revealed that there were 765 male and 217 female full-time professors teaching at the university.

But biology professor Joan Scott said the ratio is on par with the rest of the country.

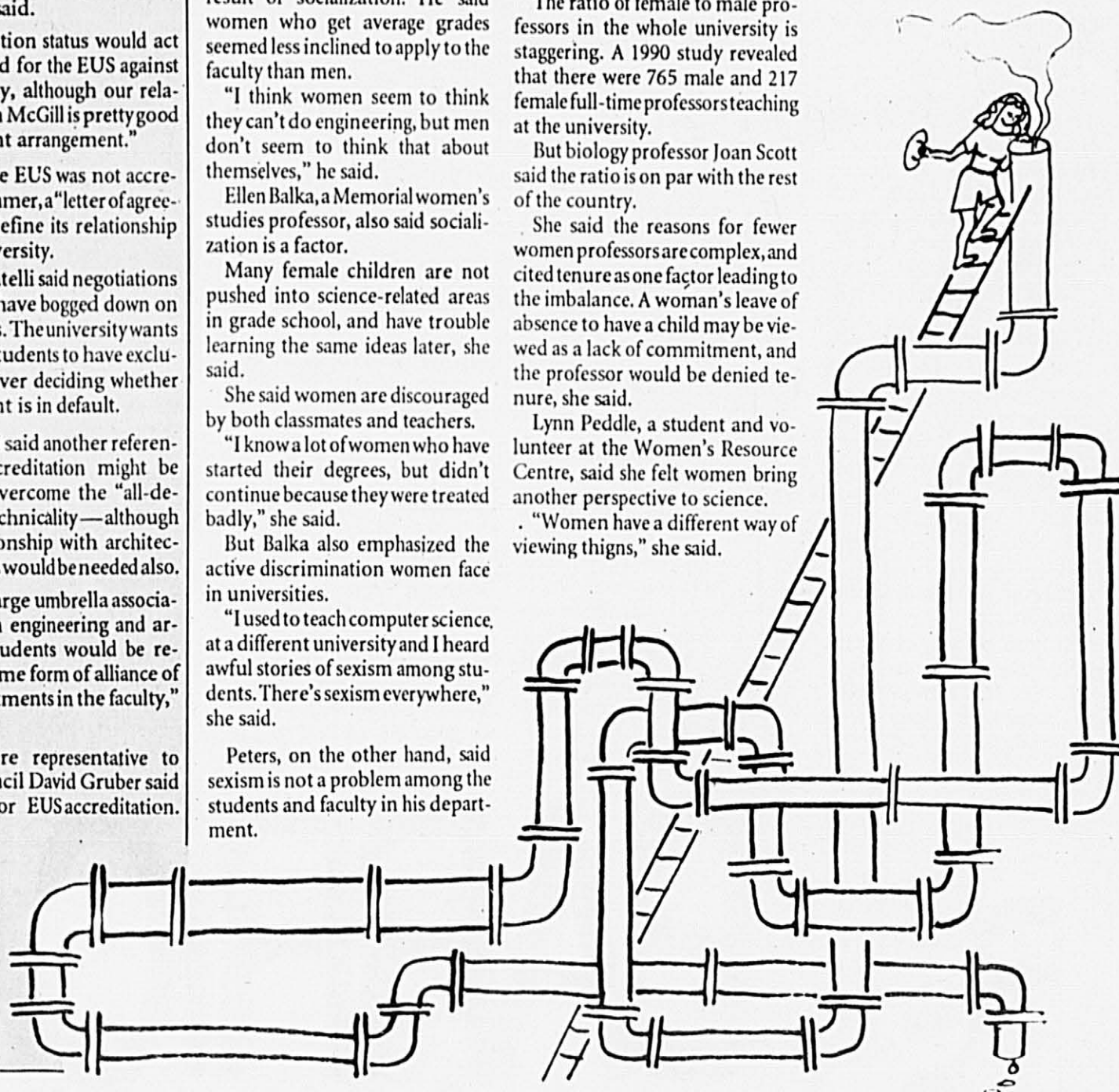
She said the reasons for fewer women professors are complex, and cited tenure as one factor leading to the imbalance. A woman's leave of absence to have a child may be viewed as a lack of commitment, and the professor would be denied tenure, she said.

Lynn Peddle, a student and volunteer at the Women's Resource Centre, said she felt women bring another perspective to science.

"Women have a different way of viewing things," she said.

"A female scientist needs economic and intellectual freedom, but when you think about it, these women are working in a male-dominated field."

"Realistically, if they don't produce findings to conform with the established view, how are they going to get money for research," she asked.



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EYE EXAMINATION AVAILABLE BY APPOINTMENT WITH OPTOMETRIST

Caisse pop using scab labour, says union

by Ita Kendall

Bank employees in Brossard have walked a picket line for 16 months and union leaders are accusing employers of underhanded tactics.

The striking workers are employees of the Caisse Populaire de Brossard. They are upset with the bank's salary increase policy which requires employees to work an average of 12 years to go from minimum to the maximum pay. They would like to see that time period reduced to five years.

Confédérations des Syndicats Nationaux (CSN) executive member Fred Sweet said the actions of the Caisse Populaire de Brossard's management "absolutely" indicate they want to break the union.

He accused caisse populaires on the South Shore of having a permanent team of scabs that have replaced striking workers at the Brossard branch.

The union has challenged the use of scabs before a labour tribunal. But a court decision has been delayed several times and Sweet does

not expect a decision to be imminent.

The 62 women and two men have been earning \$110 a week strike pay and most have had to look elsewhere for additional income. None have been able to find work since August last year, when a list of their names was circulated to South Shore and Montréal employers.

Two women who had found work in other caisses populaires were fired when a list of striking workers from the Brossard caisse was released to Montréal employers.

Striking Brossard caisse employee Sylvie Rioux was offered temporary work at the downtown offices of the Desjardins banking group. They later called her back and told her she would not be needed. Desjardins is the largest group of caisse populaires in the province.

Since last fall the striking workers have received support from other caisse populaire unions affiliated to the CSN. Until early October, each worker in those unions contributed a dollar per week to aid striking Brossard caisse employees.

In June the CSN widened support for the strikers, organizing the "50 cents campaign." Members from other CSN unions have voluntarily contributed 50 cents a week for the striking workers.

Josée Fournier, union local president and member of the CSN said management has refused to budge on the wage-increase issue. She said they have not brought a new offer to the bargaining table since last May. The union has only met formally with management five times during the 16 month conflict.

Pay was also an issue in the Brossard worker's strike when it started back in June of 1990. The union had asked for an 8 per cent increase but has since accepted the 4 per cent offered by management.

When they first went on strike, Brossard caisse populaire workers expected to be joined by the workers at several other banks whose contracts had also expired.

But the other unions settled when they were offered more money than caisse workers in Brossard.

"We were told they were offered more because they had to catch up," said Rioux.



Students to vote on health coverage

by Alex Laine

Students' Society is sending its health plan idea to a referendum in early November.

The Students' Society decided to send the proposed Student Health and Accident Insurance Plan to a student referendum after some debate at last Thursday's council meeting.

"Government health care systems have large gaps of coverage," Students' Society VP-Finance Lev Bukhman said.

"If you fall into these gaps, the costs can be crippling. Student associations have a responsibility to protect students," he said.

The plan would cost students over \$43 per year. Students' Society would have the option of increasing the cost of the policy in subsequent years to a maximum of \$47 per year.

The plan would cover accidents and prescription drugs, but would not medical expenses resulting from non-accidental illness.

Bukhman said the coverage reflects the idea that students are most prone to accident-related injuries, not illnesses.

Oral contraceptives will not be a separate question in the referendum. They are included in the proposal that students will vote on. Bukhman said he decided not to put oral contraceptives to a separate vote after a number of students and student groups expressed concern about the issue.

Seaboard Life Insurance is the health insurance firm Students' So-

ciety would deal with if students support the referendum

Bukhman said he chose Seaboard Life because the large firm has

experience dealing with a student clientele. Other universities with Seaboard-run health plans include the Ottawa university, University of Toronto, Brock, and several Ontario colleges.

Since the health insurance plan would be a policy with Seaboard Life — not a contract — the Students' Society has the option of cancelling it at any point. This also means the student council may have

the health insurance plan for an indefinite amount of time.

The health plan would reimburse students for 80 per cent of the cost of all prescription drugs except oral contraceptives, and up to \$8 per month for oral contraceptives. Stu-

dents could get reimbursed for the drug AZT, which controls the HIV

virus, according to Tom McGuire, an insurance agent for Seaboard. There is a \$2000 ceiling on reimbursements.

The plan would also cover costs for accidental dismemberment, paralysis, loss of speech, hearing, or life. Students could also get accident-related reimbursements for medical paraphernalia such as crutches; wheelchair or hospital bed rentals; treatment by physiotherapists; and accidental injury to whole or sound teeth.

Medical costs caused by an accident outside the province or the country, and the costs of repatriation of the body after accidental death would also be covered.

Tutorial expenses due to confinement to home or hospital would be covered for up to 30 hours.

Not included in the plan are non-accidental dental costs, the costs of eyeglasses or contact lenses, any injury costs covered by a third party, self-inflicted injuries, medical

costs incurred not due directly to an accident outside of province, and over the counter drugs, including condoms and spermicidal jellies.

To be reimbursed under the plan, students will be expected to save their receipts, then send them in along with a claim form, and ac-

ording to Seaboard, they will be reimbursed in about two to three days.

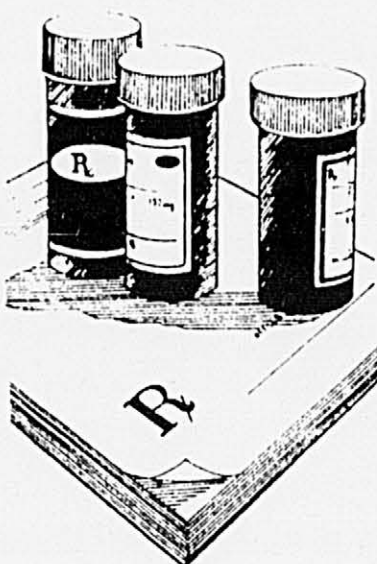


PHOTO CREDIT: JANINE LUCE

One Lev Bukhman said oral contraceptives will be part of the health plan.